by a retainer ring **144** which is suitably secured to the rigid plate by bolts or rivets **145**. A small stiffening plate or manually actuatable means **146** of metal, plastic or the like is bonded to the upper surface of the diaphragm for the purpose of supplying strength and rigidity to the diaphragm. A convential flap valve **148** covers an air inlet **149** in the rigid plate **140** to allow air to enter the diaphragm but not exit through the inlet. Both the rigid plate **140** and the triangular plate **130** are provided with central apertures which are interconnected by a small tube **148**. A conventional ball-type check valve **150** is provided in the lower end of the tube to permit air to pass from the diaphragm into the ball occupying chamber **127** but not to exit therefrom.

In the use of this embodiment, the balls are placed in the cups **120** and the container top **128** is lowered into place on the studs **126**. After the wing nuts **136** are tightened to effect an airtight seal, the diaphragm is flexed a few times, as by the user stepping on plate **146**, to pump air into the ball occupying chamber **127**. The pumping may be continued until the desired pressure is obtained.

The embodiment shown in FIG. 7 shows a container means including a cylindrical container **152** having a cylindrical side wall **154** and a threaded end enclosure **156**. A gasket **158** is placed between the end closure and the cylindrical side wall to effect an airtight seal. The upper end of the cylindrical container **152** terminates in an inner peripheral flange **160** that forms a central opening **162**. A ring **164** is threaded over the upper end of the cylindrical container and is provided with a peripheral lip **166** in which is seated a rubber or like seal ring **168**. The air pressurization means of this embodiment of the invention includes a collapsible bellows **169** bonded at its lower end to the outside surface of the ring **164**. The bellows may be made of any suitable flexible, air impermeable material such as rubber, molded plastic or the like and may be resilient if desired.

Manually actuatable means for the bellows comprises a rigid disk **170** bonded to the upper edges of the bellows **169**, with an integrally formed upright channel member **172**. The opposite ends of the channel receive pivot pins **176** on which are pivotally mounted a pair of clips **178**. Each clip has an inwardly upturned end **180** that is latchable, when the bellows is compressed, beneath a catch **182** on each side of the cylindrical container **152** for locking the bellows in its compressed position.

The plurality of filler elements **190**, slightly spaced from one another as at **194**, occupy substantially all of the air space around the balls B and define a ball occupying chamber **195**. The filler elements **190** are preferably somewhat loose fitting so that air may pass between the balls and the fillers and around the radial outer surfaces of the fillers to pressurize the entire container.

In the use of this embodiment the balls B and filler elements **190** are placed in the container **152** through either end thereof. After threaded replacement of either ring **164** or the end enclosure **156**, depending on which was removed, the bellows **169** is collapsed by pushing downwardly on the disk **170** to force air into the ball occupying chamber **195** and the clips **178** are then fastened beneath the catches **182**.

I claim:

1. Self-contained storage apparatus for tennis balls and the like, comprising:

(a) container means providing a ball occupying chamber, configured to have a relatively small volume of air surrounding a plurality of balls;

(b) air pressurization means structurally integrated with said container means and having a variable volume air chamber with a maximum volume substantially greater than the volume of air surrounding the balls in the container means, such variable volume air chamber being in air flow communication with the ball occupying chamber;

(c) means enabling placement of the balls in the container means a closure of the ball occupying chamber with the variable volume air chamber at substantially its maximum volume and with the air in said chambers at substantially atmospheric pressure; and

(d) said air pressurization means including manually actuatable means for reducing the volume of the variable volume air chamber and thus increasing the air pressure in the ball occupying chamber.

2. The apparatus defined by claim **1**, wherein said air pressurization means is provided with flexible walls.

3. The apparatus defined by claim **2**, wherein said flexible walls are in the form of the bladder.

4. The apparatus defined by claim **2**, wherein said flexible walls are in the form of a diaphragm.

5. The apparatus defined by claim **2**, wherein said flexible walls are in the form of a bellows.

6. The apparatus defined by claim **1**, wherein said container means includes filler elements configured to substantially fill the space around the balls so as to form said ball occupying chamber.

7. The apparatus defined by claim **1**, said container means having outer wall means in the form of spherical cups which define said ball occupying chamber.

8. Apparatus defined by claim **1**, said container means having:

(a) an open end for inserting the balls into said ball occupying chamber;

(b) a closure member having an end surface for closing said open end and an aperture communicating with said air pressurization means, said enclosure and said air pressurization means being integrally formed as a single unit.

9. The apparatus defined by claim **1**, wherein said container means has:

(a) two spaced ends, one of said ends having a closure surface provided with an aperture in communication with said air pressurization means and said air pressurization means being integrally connected to said closure surface, and said other end having a removable enclosure for inserting tennis balls into said ball occupying chamber.

10. The apparatus defined by claim **2**, wherein said flexible wall air pressurization means and said container means form a unitary hollow cylinder, a part of which defines said ball occupying chamber, and wherein the air pressure in said ball occupying chamber is increased to the desired pressure by a single partial stroke of said flexible wall air pressurization means.

11. The apparatus defined by claim **2**, further including latch means for holding said manually actuatable means in an actuated position wherein the ball occupying chamber remains pressurized.

12. The apparatus defined by claim **4**, wherein said air pressurization means includes valve means for controlling the passage of air between said diaphragm and said ball occupying chamber.

13. The apparatus defined by claim **2**, wherein said air pressurization means include a compression cylinder confining an air impervious bladder, the interior of said bladder communicating with the interior of said ball occupying chamber.

14. The apparatus defined by claim **13**, wherein said manually actuatable means includes:

(a) at least two toggle arms pivotally connected alongside said compression cylinder; and

(b) at least two latch arms pivotally connected to said toggle arms for reciprocating said toggle arms and selectively locking them against movement.

15. The apparatus defined by claim **14**, further including attachment means securable over said container means for supporting said latch arms.

16. The apparatus defined by claim **15**, wherein said container means is a conventional cylindrical can of the type in which tennis balls are marketed.